

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY'S REQUESTS FOR NEW YORK PROJECTS INCLUDED IN INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today voted in favor of an appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of the Interior that includes important funding for New York. At Hinchey's request, the bill includes funding for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the New York City Watershed in excess of the amounts requested by President Bush. The bill also provides funding for the construction of a visitors' center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt historic site. Hinchey is the only New York member of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

"The bill our subcommittee passed today is far better than the budget President Bush requested for the Interior Department," said Hinchey. "I was particularly pleased to get funding for projects in the Hudson Valley and Catskill regions."

The Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee is one of thirteen subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee, each of which is responsible for determining a portion of federal discretionary spending. Now that it has passed the subcommittee, the Interior budget will next be considered by the entire Appropriations Committee, which is expected to vote on the bill next week.

The bill that passed the subcommittee today included several earmarks requested by Hinchey, including \$900,000 for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and \$1.8 million for the protection of and economic development in the New York City Watershed. Also at Hinchey's urging, the bill provides \$1.2 million for research into increasing the efficiency of oil heat. The bill also includes just over \$5.6 million for the construction of a visitors' center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt historic site in Hyde Park.

Hinchey lauded the bill for restoring funding for energy research to 2001 levels. The president had proposed drastic cuts to these programs. Overall, the bill appropriates \$814 million more than the amount the administration requested.

"The president's budget proposal was entirely inadequate," Hinchey added. "While I am disappointed this budget does not provide increased funding for energy research and does not increase the budget for the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, it's certainly an improvement over the president's plan."

